

Pike Central High School Students Receive Invention Grant to Create Disaster Relief Shelter

Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam Initiative Inspires a New Generation of Inventors

Petersburg, IN, October 19, 2010- Pike Central High School was recently awarded a Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam grant in the amount of \$5,455 to create a portable disaster relief shelter that incorporates a water purification system and natural energy sources for a light. Pike Central High School is one of 14 high schools nationwide to be selected as an InvenTeam this year.



From left to right: Ray Niehaus, BreAnne Lane, Anna Woolery, Jessica D'Esposito, Brooke Riddle, Ricky Sizemore, Willy Klueg, C.M. Brown, Colton Newton, Christian Wilson, and Blane Gress

InvenTeams are teams of high school students, teachers, and mentors that receive grants up to \$10,000 each to invent technological solutions to real-world problems. Entering its eighth year, this initiative of the Lemelson-MIT Program aims to inspire a new generation of inventors.

"The InvenTeams program represents the future," said Leigh Estabrooks, invention education officer from the Lemelson-MIT program. "With STEM-focused projects from the Obama administration and leading organizations becoming more prevalent, it's important to maintain momentum and continue to inspire youth in these fields. With InvenTeams, our primary goal is to foster high school students' passion for invention and innovation, in turn inspiring them to become leaders and mentors."

Ray Niehaus, Project Lead the Way Instructor at Pike Central High School initiated the InvenTeam application process last spring and attended training at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in June to help prepare the final proposal. A prestigious panel of judges composed of educators and researchers from MIT and Harvard University, representatives from the industry, MIT staff and alumni, and former Lemelson-MIT Award winners assembled this fall and selected Pike Central High School as one of this year's InvenTeam grantees.

The Pike Central High School InvenTeam is creating a light weight disaster relief shelter that is easy to assemble and disassemble while also being low cost. They are using plastic corrugated sheets for the walls and roof and plastic extrusions for the corners and edges.

The Pike Central High School InvenTeam will also work with Scott Willis, electrical engineer of Crane Division of Naval Surface Warfare Center and Sheryl Ring-Laakman, executive director or the Old Northwest Territory Chapter of the American Red Cross, who will guide the students through the development of their invention.

Ray Niehaus said, "I'm proud of these students and how well the project is coming together. It will be a benefit to humanity."

Over the next nine months, the Pike Central High School InvenTeam will develop its disaster relief shelter. In June the students will showcase a prototype of their invention at EurekaFest at

MIT in Cambridge, Mass. EurekaFest, presented by the Lemelson-MIT Program, is a multi-day celebration designed to empower a legacy of inventors through activities that inspire youth, honor role models, and encourage creativity and problem solving.

About the Lemelson-MIT Program

Celebrating innovation, inspiring youth

The Lemelson-MIT Program recognizes the outstanding inventors and innovators transforming our world, and inspires young people to pursue creative lives and careers through innovation.

Jerome H. Lemelson, one of U.S. history's most prolific inventors, and his wife, Dorothy, founded the Lemelson-MIT Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1994. It is funded by the Lemelson Foundation and administered by the School of Engineering. The foundation sparks, sustains, and celebrates innovation and the inventive spirit. It supports projects in the United States and developing countries that nurture innovators and unleash invention to advance economic, social, and environmentally sustainable development. To date, The Lemelson Foundation has donated or committed more than \$150 million in support of its mission. For more information about the Lemelson-MIT Program, visit <http://web.mit.edu/invent>.

For More Information:

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